



Angelus Letter
16 March 2023
LETTER #215

Dear Parish Family,

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THIS WEEKEND

Friday Mass at 8 a.m. with Fr. Bozek
Friday Stations of the Cross at 1:45 p.m.
Friday Confessions at 4 p.m.
Friday Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m.

Saturday Mass at 8 a.m. with Fr. Valencheck
Saturday Confessions from 9:30-10 a.m.
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30 p.m. with Fr. Bozek

Sunday Mass at 9 a.m. with Fr. Bozek
Sunday Mass at 11 a.m. with Fr. Valencheck
Sunday Mass at 1 p.m. with Fr. Justin, OSB

CONSTRUCTION NEWS

According to what we have been told, there should be no changes for you when you come to weekend Masses except that the Triangle (Elmdale Park) is now a mountain of construction material and unavailable for parking. All signs should allow for local traffic and **parking on both sides of Mull Avenue** for weekend Masses. This should be the case through Easter Sunday.

The problem may be, as I figured out finally on Tuesday morning, that there is no one to remove the **ROAD CLOSED** sign off of the circle. Later on Tuesday, we received an apology email from the City. (Around 7:40 a.m. on Tuesday morning I practiced civil disobedience and moved the signs aside.) They said that they will make sure this is corrected in the future. If you should approach that sign and find the road blocked, circle around and come to the parish from Elmdale.

Just keep saying with me, “**Six months from now we will be SO happy that this was done!**” I thank you for your patience and understanding. We are all in this together and figuring it out so let’s pull together and see our way through. If you are young and strong, consider passing up that close parking spot for someone who may need it a little more. If you can, leave for Mass a couple of minutes early so that you can figure out what is going on if need be. Remember that there is **PLENTY** of parking in the brick parking lot and it is not that long of a walk. Besides, when it is Donut Sunday, you will be closer to the donuts!

If you have any concerns (or ideas about how to better handle the situation), please give a call and in the meantime, be strong! Be brave and carry on!

LOOKING FOR NEW SERVERS

I am looking for young parishioners from fourth to twelfth grade who have not served to don a cassock and begin serving God and this community through service at the altar. There will be a **one-hour practice beginning at 6 p.m. sharp on Monday, March 27th**. I hope to see you there!

CONCERNING ST. PATRICK’S DAY

Our Bishop has issued a statement on abstaining on St. Patrick’s Day which you may read [HERE](#).

ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP STATISTICS

Thank you to everybody who participated in the Angel Scholarship Fund this year. Here is what St. Sebastian did to further Catholic education through this program this inaugural year:

78 Gifts were given to St. Sebastian Parish School in 2022
(This number includes parishioners and non-parishioners)

\$83,750 This is the amount of money designated to St. Sebastian Parish School

\$12,200 This was awarded during the 2022-2023 school year.

\$69,879* This will be awarded during the 2023-2024 school year. (*After credit card fees)

Also, we had a few more places where funds were distributed.

\$2,250 This is the amount that went to the Julie Billiard School.

\$1,700 Designated to greatest need.

The rest of the total supported local Catholic high schools or other schools.

Great job St. Sebastian! Please support this effort again next year and perhaps we can get a few more Sebastianites to join in to help support Catholic education!

EVENTS COMING UP

THEOLOGY ON THE ROCKS: Monday, March 20th. See [HERE](#) for more details.

9 NIGHTS OF NIGHT PRAYER: Beginning Friday night, March 17. See [HERE](#) for more details.

CONCERNING THE EXTRAORDINARY FORM

It was in 2010 that St. Mary Parish on South Main Street was closed (temporarily as it turned out) and the Extraordinary Form Mass (known to some as the Traditional Latin Mass) began to be celebrated regularly at St. Sebastian Parish. Since then, attendance at this Mass has seen significant growth. Eventually a second Mass was offered on Sundays at St. Paul Parish on Brown Street. Being at a more convenient time for some, it initially cut attendance at St. Sebastian Parish in half, but numbers here have continued to increase to reach former levels as it did at St. Paul meaning the overall number of Catholics attending this form of the Mass in Akron has doubled in the last ten years. Those who have come to the parish to attend this form of the Mass have since become involved by becoming members, financially supporting, being part of parish councils, volunteering for events and sending their children to our school.

It seemed as though that would largely be the end of the story. But such is not the case. As most are aware, Pope Francis appears to be making the public availability of this form of the Mass, at best, challenging. I wish I had inside information to give you on this matter, but I am just as much in the dark as to what the future holds as you. Therefore, I am making a number of contingency plans.

That being said, I would like to make a few comments about our Bishop. We had dinner together recently before our Confirmation Mass and the conversation turned toward what was going to become of the Extraordinary Form Mass in our diocese. It was obvious that it was a troubling topic for him and he too was somewhat concerned as to what the future would hold. His plan, at present, is to try to do what he can (and if he can) to ensure the long-term celebration of the Extraordinary Form Mass in his diocese. As things stand right now, we are still operating under the assumption that no changes will be made in our diocese until August when we will implement the plan for the Cleveland Diocese unless otherwise mandated earlier by the Holy Father.

To that end, there are three possible outcomes for the Parish of St. Sebastian. The first, of course, would be that there are no changes. This is perhaps the least likely. But God can sometimes be ironic and one never knows what He will do. The second is that the Extraordinary Form will no longer be able to be celebrated at St. Sebastian Parish but may be celebrated at another location nearby. The third would be that Rome completely denies all permissions (at least for the time being) for the Extraordinary Form to be celebrated within the Diocese of Cleveland.

In the event of the latter two cases, here is what we would attempt to do at St. Sebastian Parish: At the 1 o'clock time slot, we would continue to celebrate Mass as long as it appears there is a desire for a Mass at this time. I have been speaking with other priests (particularly Fr. Bede OSB who currently is one of our main celebrants for the Extraordinary Mass here at St. Sebastian) and liturgists to see exactly what our options are and how broadly the rubrics of the Ordinary Form Mass can be interpreted to reflect more closely what is seen and experienced in the Extraordinary Form Mass.

I know this will not make up for this turn of events. As is with the Bishop, my options are limited but I want to do whatever I can and to the extent that I can to cope with this situation. In the meantime, please keep communication open. Pray for the Church and our parish (who knows what God might have up his proverbial sleeve?) Keep your peace and rely solely on Him.

FROM THE FORGOTTEN CABINET

Because I haven't found the key to the records room yet, I want to tell you a story concerning the history of the parish that was heard this past week concerning the opening of Byrider Hall. Construction began in 1952 and in November of 1953 the hall was dedicated amidst great fanfare all of which has been written about before.

This story, however, concerns the first basketball game held in the gym. James Flynn who, at the time, was a member of Annunciation Parish, says that in those days, nobody liked St. Sebastian because they won at everything and he was on the Annunciation team that was scheduled to play St. Sebastian at the opening game of their brand-new facility. St. Sebastian, as predicted, won the day with Mike Garrett (Class of 1955) scoring around 24 points and with Mr. Flynn being the lead scorer for Annunciation.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

TO GIVE TO THE PARISH: <https://www.stsebastian.org/donate>

TO GIVE TO THE FOUNDATION: <https://www.stsebastian.org/foundation/donate>

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Please keep all of our sick and distressed in your prayers:

Annette Bailey, Jill Buffa, Regina Buhalak, Dan Canale, Christopher Casey, Emilio Cheuy, Jo Cooney, Nancy Cotter, Anthony D'Attoma, Tammy Davis, Marjorie DeLuca, Mary Pat Doorley, Rosemarie George, Rita Buhalak Gossford, Bill Heising, Robert Hickey, John and Terry Hogan, Ann Hubiak, Carson Hutzell, James Hutzell, Carolyn Jeske, Janet Kendrick, Candace Kidd, Fred Kovacic, Jean Labate, Frank Livigni, John Marckel, Myrna Marple, Marlene McFadden, Don Matis, Ken Minrovic, Betty O'Hara, Keith Pecek, Julius Peters, Beverly & Mike Preston, Bob Rader, Mary Ricks, Aaron Salisbury, Ann Sandvick, Betty Sarich, Denise Schmidt, Michael Schnetzer, Cory Schulz, Tom Smith, Keith Wisberger and Ann Zsembik.

God bless you,

Fr. Valencheck

St. Sebastian, pray for us.



**Novena to St. Sebastian,
Protector Against the Plague**

Glorious Saint Sebastian, you who had great courage, help us to be witnesses of Jesus before this unbelieving world as you have brought others to Christ. Help us to have the love of neighbor that you had and to give our lives for our brothers, even in difficulties and dangers.

Help us to have faith in the pains of life as you endured cruel martyrdom.

Protect all soldiers, military and police against every danger in their work.

Protect all nations against wars, hunger and pestilence.

Intercede for the grace that I need...

[Mention your intention here...]
Amen.

St. Sebastian Parish | 476 Mull Ave, Akron, OH 44320

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